

be recognized on Friday, May 4th, at an informal reception honoring their volunteer service. Youth Excelling in Service [YES], a program of the Volunteer Center of Johnson County, has invited Johnson County leaders and educators to this reception honoring the twenty-eight Outstanding Youth Volunteers who will be featured in the upcoming "Movers and Shakers" publication. I will present the young people with a Congressional Award for their contributions to the community, and YES will spotlight the role these committed young people play in addressing community needs.

Johnson County's young people are becoming increasingly involved in service to their community and the stories of their accomplishments are powerful. The twenty-eight "Movers and Shakers" to be honored at the reception testify to the fact that my congressional district's young people see needs in their communities and are ready, willing and able to meet those needs by investing their time and skills. These young people are passionate about challenging, motivating and recruiting other young people to likewise take the plunge into volunteer service. I am pleased to have this opportunity to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD profiles of these twenty-eight "Movers and Shakers."

#### MOVERS AND SHAKERS 2001—YOUTH PROFILES

Natalie M. Binkholder, 17, Olathe East High School—Over 700 hours—Olathe Youth Court, Olathe Youth Congress, Mother's Hands.

Natalie's volunteerism is fueled by her optimism and energy. "Anyone can change the world," Natalie says, "the best way to start is with a smile." Natalie first began her volunteer leadership in 9th grade when she presided over the school's community service organization. Natalie is active in a variety of causes, including homeless assistance, crime prevention, and drug and alcohol prevention. Her proudest accomplishment is the success of the Olathe Youth Court, where she and other members of the court positively intervene in the lives of juvenile offenders in order to decrease repeat crimes. During her volunteer experiences, she has developed a love for serving youth, and one day plans to use her skills as a professional attorney to assist youth courts. "No matter where life takes me, I want to continue to be involved with youth. Youth are the leaders of tomorrow and I want to help them achieve their dreams." Natalie was nominated by Cheryl Oakley.

Adrienne Cichelli, 17, Shawnee Mission West—100 hours—JAWS [Join Active West Students], Young Life, Teen Advisory Council.

To Adrienne, it really is the thought that counts when it comes to volunteering. Adrienne says, "Building a house isn't any better than picking up trash on the streets. The impact comes from the volunteer's attitude and motivation, not the deed." Adrienne has done everything from building a house to organizing a special event to advocating healthy lifestyle choices for elementary students. During a mission trip to Mexico, Adrienne's eyes were truly opened to the level of need and the effect her help had on the families with whom she worked. She plans to spend much more time volunteering, and this summer she will be with Children's Mercy Hospital and serving as a companion at an assisted living facility. For potential youth volunteers, Adrienne gives these words of wisdom: "Participating in a single act of volunteerism can change your life in a

way you never thought possible. Give your time to help your community, it's more valuable than any paycheck you'll ever receive." Adrienne was nominated by Mary Lea Kieffer.

Leah Cogswell, 17, Olathe South High School—Over 100 hours—SOAR, 4-H, Promise Youth, Youth Volunteer Corps.

Food, Fun and Friends! Volunteering on Leah's projects will never be boring! Leah's volunteer experience began when she noticed all her friends were involved in community service. She has since taken the lead by serving as the chairman of the community service committee in her 4-H club. She has organized bake-a-thons to raise money for an Olathe youth with leukemia and to provide flood relief to eight families devastated by Hurricane Floyd. She has served as a counselor for several youth camps, leading games and crafts, campfire activities, and helping with meals. "There is nothing quite as rewarding as seeing the smiling face of someone you have helped," beams Leah. "We live in an area where so many people have been blessed with so much; it is time to give a portion back to those who are less fortunate." In the

Jonathan Eckman, 12, Prairie Star Middle School—75 hours—Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Children's Center for the Visually Impaired.

Jonathan began volunteering in order to become eligible for the President's Student Service Award. He has volunteered more than enough hours to earn the award, but Jonathan continues to volunteer because he has found his community service rewarding on its own. He has also been impressed and inspired by the dedication of other volunteers with whom he has worked, particularly those at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Working with such enthusiastic volunteers made Jonathan realize that "we all can make a difference some way in the community". Jonathan plans to continue volunteering at the Arboretum as well as coaching children's gymnastics. Last year, his gymnastics group raised \$5,000 for the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired. He's not stopping there! He also plans to volunteer with his church's nursery and be involved with the soup kitchen. What does such a busy guy have to say to other potential youth volunteers? "I would say to other youths to try it because when you see the results it is phenomenal!" Jonathan was nominated by Gretchen Steffen.

Chelsea Fogelman, 17, Olathe East High School—Over 180 volunteer hours—Uplift Organization, Inc., Christmas in October, Mother's Hand, Sherwood Center.

With the Fogelmans, volunteering is definitely a family affair. Chelsea's extensive work with the homeless has been inspired by her "unendingly supportive" parents, Candi and Dave. Since the age of 10, Chelsea has been raising awareness of homeless issues in the area. She has collected and prepared food for thousands of individual through Uplift Organization, Inc. and enjoys knowing that her efforts will provide a meal to someone in need. Chelsea's family has made Christmas in October a tradition, and spend the day repairing family homes in poverty stricken areas. Chelsea feels that volunteering should come from the heart. "When you're contributing to a cause that's important to you and that you enjoy, you'll learn more about yourself and the world around you," Chelsea states. "Volunteering can be both fun and meaningful if you can find a cause that you care about." Chelsea plans to expand her volunteering efforts to include other issues. She will continue her work with the homeless

and hopes to recruit other youth to do the same. Chelsea was nominated by Barbera Ferrell.

Joe Klinkenborg, 17, Shawnee Mission NorthWest High School—Over 200 hours—LakeView Village.

Joe quotes his class motto when asked about his service: The doer of good becomes good. Joe has transformed his school spirit into volunteer spirit with his work through Shawnee Mission NorthWest's community service club whose teacher inspired him to become passionate about community service. Joe believes in the importance of performing "random acts of kindness" and says that wherever he goes, "volunteerism will always be a component of my life." He teaches the elderly to become computer savvy, including how to use the internet. Working with the residents of LakeView Village, Joe formed LKVV, an in-house tv station

Paul Lampe, 15, St. Thomas Aquinas High School—Over 400 hours—4-H, LakeView Retirement Community (Lazarus Project), Kauffman Foundation.

"As a culture of youth we have so much . . . we need to learn to share." Paul doesn't just say these words, he puts them into action. Through his volunteering efforts, Paul has learned to share his time, his skills, his leadership, and even his home to help others. He learned this when he was very young as a member of 4-H. The more Paul learns, the more he gives. When Paul was taught to rebuild a computer, he shared that skill with residents of LakeView Village for the Lazarus Project. He rebuilds discarded computers for nonprofit organizations. When he's not working with the retirement community, Paul's busy with the Kauffman Youth Advisory Board, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars to youth projects in the city. Currently, he's setting up websites for 4-H clubs throughout the county and sharing his home with a foreign exchange student which Paul says "takes some effort, but you'll learn a great deal about yourself as well as another culture!" He enjoys the diversity of his volunteer experience and plans to keep encouraging other youth to get involved. Paul was nominated by Al Davis.

Macklen Mayse, 17, Shawnee Mission West High School—280 hours—Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Girl Scouts, Down's Syndrome Guild of Kansas City, AIDS Walk of Kansas City.

While a junior volunteer at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Macklen was working the telephones when a woman called who spoke no english. Macklen, who has studied spanish for five years, took a crack at helping the woman and it worked! She is proud to be able to use her talents to find new ways to help others and has been very busy with numerous organizations and projects. She focuses on the impact of her volunteer work and finds her motivation to keep volunteering by remembering the big picture. "Feeling like I could have an impact on someone or help someone has always felt awesome." Her volunteer experiences are diverse. Through Girl Scouts, Macklen has collected can goods and planned and participated in special events. Twice she has volunteered for the AIDS Walk of Kansas City. In the future, Macklen hopes to be able to use her Spanish skills to impact her community and plans to go global with her volunteering by traveling to Central and South America. Macklen was nominated by Marty Lea Kieffer.